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Sweet Briar College Newsletter

ı of Sweet Briar College Volume 56, Number 3 November 1972

Summer Projects on Campus

Two research projects, with Amherst County as the laboratory, were conducted last summer by seven faculty members and nine students, who were employed for eight weeks of concentrated study and field work.

One project examined citizens' responses to the proposed annexation of a portion of Amherst County by the city of Lynchburg; the other related to a total study of the county which was begun in 1969. Both were supported by the COSIP (College Science Improvement Program) grant awarded to Sweet Briar by the National Science Foundation. Under this program, emphasis has been placed on student involvement in environmental research.

Supervised by faculty participants in the project, a team of seven students completed 383 interviews in an impartial survey of public opinion regarding annexation. Warmly received in homes they visited, the students called the experience "most enjoyable." They welcomed the opportunity to get acquainted with county residents, as well as to "let the silent citizen speak."

The students were involved in all the techniques of a survey: drafting and pre-testing a questionnaire, using an aerial map for sample selection, and tabulating their results on the computer. Introduced to a combination of disciplines, they found that the educational rewards were, in the words of one student, "overwhelming."

Although the objective of the survey was primarily academic, it will also serve the community in providing an unbiased study of the annexation issue. According to Dr. Langley Wood, coordinator of the project, the final report will be released to city and county officials for their information and use.

Faculty participants in the study were professors Milan E. Hapala, Thomas V. Gilpatrick, David A. Johnson, Mary Ann Lee and Susan B. Piepho. The students were Cynthia Hardy, Ellen Harrison, Kate Joyner, Patricia Parker, Janet Richards, Linda Wheeler, and Nancy Wilson, all in the Class of 1975.

In the other summer research project Debra Bogdan and Roberta Culbertson, both seniors in the Honors Program, contributed to the continuing study of Amherst County, under the direction of Dr. Catherine H. C. Seaman. *(Continued on page 2)*

Photo by Langley Wood

Professor Embeita Lectures In Spain

A widely-known Hispanist both in this country and abroad, Dr. Maria Z. Embeita, Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish, was engaged in a variety of literary and academic activities in her native Spain and in Switzerland last summer.

Dr. Embeita gave a series of 15 lectures on Contemporary Spanish

Literature at the Cultura Hispanica in Madrid. Affiliated with the University of Madrid, this institution enrolls both undergraduate and graduate students and confers doctoral degrees.

She was among those invited to attend the International Congress on El Arcipreste de Hita, Spanish medieval author. Meetings were held June 21-24 in three cities associated with him: Madrid, Guadalajara, and Hita.

While Dr. Embeita was in Madrid, an article she had written was published in "La Estafeta Literaria," a leading literary journal. Her essay was a critical appraisal of the work of Jose F. Montesinos, a distinguished Hispanist who taught at the University of California, Berkeley, until his death late last spring.

At a meeting of the European Association of Professors of Spanish, at Neuchatel, Switzerland, Dr. Embeita read a paper on The Function of Poetry in Today's World. In Geneva, she took part in a colloquium on contemporary Spanish literature.

Dr. Embeita has taught at Sweet Briar for the past three years. She is the author of numerous articles, chiefly on topics in modern Spanish literature, published in various literary journals in Spain, Mexico, and this country.

Summer *(Continued from page 1)*

The students were concerned with an in-depth investigation of an ethnic group of several hundred persons who have retained their separate identity in the County for over 200 years. They reported on the population movement and social mobility of the group, and the economic and educational opportunities available to them.

As their sources, the students consulted legal documents and old letters, interviewed agency staffs, and made home visitations. They also examined the dissolving community of Beverly Town in the George Washington National Forest which was once a center of the ethnic population.

The students will use their summer research findings for comparative analysis in the conduct of their own honors projects. Debra's is a study of small ethnic groups in the eastern United States, and Roberta is doing research on Guatemalan Indians.

Dr. Langley Wood, former chairman of the zoology department at the University of New Hampshire, has become Coordinator of Environmental Studies at Sweet Briar, a new post.

Dr. Wood is well acquainted with this area, as he was born and grew up in Lynchburg. A graduate of William and Mary, Columbia, and Cornell, where he earned his doctorate in evolutionary biology, he has had wide experience in undergraduate and graduate teaching and research. For eight years he was on the staff of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

New Director Heads Junior Year In France

Dr. Robert G. Marshall became the third director of the Junior Year in France and professor of French at Sweet Briar in July. He succeeds Dr. R. John Matthew who retired in June from the post he had held since 1957.

Dr. Marshall, formerly professor and chairman of Romance languages at Wells College, had served on the Advisory Committee for the Sweet Briar program since 1963, and was professor-in-charge of the 1967-68 student group in France.

A graduate of Rice University, Dr. Marshall holds a Ph.D. from Yale and a diploma from the University of Siena, Italy, where he studied under a Fulbright summer grant in 1954. He also had a Fulbright research grant for a year of study in Rome and a Danforth Foundation grant to study literature and religion at the University of Chicago.

Before going to Wells College in 1951, Dr. Marshall taught at Yale and at Texas Women's University, and he has taught in summer sessions at Colgate University. At Wells he directed NDEA Summer Institutes for Teachers of French, 1963-67.

He is the author of numerous reviews, critical essays, and scholarly papers published in French, German, Italian and American journals, and he has edited several French plays and poems for classroom use.

Photo by M. von Briesen

New members of the faculty pictured are: front row, Rehana Ghadially, psychology; Stuart Campbell, history; Dr. Langley Wood, coordinator of environmental studies; Dr. R. Catherine Henley, biology; Dr. Louis Kibler, French. Back row: Allen Huszti, music; Henry James, librarian; Robert Gilpin, history; Claire Hagen, physical education; Ralph Woehle, sociology; James R. Ramsey, art history; Robert G. Marshall, director, Junior Year in France.

Photo by J. Cancellare

Sailing for a year of foreign study were the following members of the Sweet Briar Junior Year in France: Ann Stuart McKie, Mary Lee Burch, Melissa Hubbard, Ruth Willingham, Cindy Sorenson, Karen Greer, Laura Krecker, Mary Shaw Halsey, Mary Killorin, Eileen Rubien, Elinor Plowden, Emory Furniss, Victoria Bates, and Elaine Mills. This year's group of 107 students from 47 American colleges is the 25th under Sweet Briar's auspices. Also pictured are Jennifer Brickson, bound for the University of Southampton, England; and Carol Bebb, one of five Sweet Briar juniors at St. Andrews University, Scotland.

Staff Appointments

Henry James came to Sweet Briar in June as head librarian. He is a graduate of Yale, with an M.A. in English from Stanford University and an M.S. from Columbia Library School.

Formerly librarian and lecturer in English at Briarcliff College, Mr. James has also been on the staff of the Lamont Library, Harvard; the Brooklyn Public Library; and the Ferguson Public Library, Stamford, Conn. For a year he was an exchange librarian in Gloucester, England.

His articles have appeared in a number of periodicals, and he has published studies of USIS and British Council Libraries abroad.

John T. Rice, appointed to the new office of Assistant to the President, also teaches sociology part-time. A native of Richmond, he is an honor graduate of VPI, with a master's degree from the University of Tennessee.

Mr. Rice has been headmaster of St. Anne's School, Charlottesville, for the past two years. He was formerly vice-president of Florida Junior College, Jacksonville, and dean of men at Madison College, Harrisonburg, Va.

Alberta J. Zotack, who was graduated from Sweet Briar in 1969, is the new Assistant Dean of Students. For the past three years she was advisor and later director of a residence hall at Syracuse University, where she received an M.S. in student personnel administration.

Miss Zotack majored in Spanish and spent a summer in Spain in a study program conducted by Bryn Mawr College. She was a Tau Phi, house president, language lab assistant, and reporter for the Sweet Briar News.

Summer Work Leads To Career

Last summer, when many college students had trouble finding jobs, a few from Sweet Briar found unusual work which could serve as preparation for graduate study or for future careers.

Among those fortunate few was Peggy Cheesewright, a senior from Pasadena, Calif., who spent a profitable three months as research assistant to Dr. H. Keith H. Brodie, assistant professor of psychiatry in the Laboratory of Stress and Conflict, Department of Psychology, Stanford University Medical School. Dr. Brodie is also a biochemist, whose current research is directed towards a physiological basis for mental depression.

Peggy, who is majoring in anthropology, met Dr. Brodie at Stanford last January, when she was making a study of primate behavior as her Winter term project.

During the summer Peggy was given opportunities to observe and participate in a variety of activities in the laboratory, and to attend medical meetings and conferences. She also did some library research for Dr. Brodie.

After graduation from Sweet Briar next May, Peggy expects to study medical anthropology, a new profession in the practice of community health.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP
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Francesco Trio To Stay Two Weeks

As a special feature for a Winter-term course in chamber music, the Francesco Chamber Trio, artists-in-residence at Stanford University, will spend two weeks on campus in January. Their visit is supported by a grant to the college from the Proctor & Gamble Foundation.

Formed in San Francisco in 1964, the trio consists of David Abel, violin; Bonnie Hampton, cello; and Nathan Schwartz, piano. Widely acclaimed as an outstanding group of young artists, each has also won recognition as a soloist. The trio gave a concert at Sweet Briar in 1971.

During their stay in January, they will give a public concert in addition to several open rehearsals and a lecture-recital series. They will live on campus and will take meals with students in the dining halls.

Before the trio arrives, students in the course will spend nearly two weeks studying, analyzing, and discussing the works which are to be played. The course will be taught by Prof. Lucile Umbreit, assisted by others on the music faculty.

Valuable Equipment Acquired For Physics

At a cost of about $50 for parts, some valuable electronic equipment which originally cost several thousand dollars has been added to the Physics department recently, according to Prof. George Lenz. Two multichannel analyzers, listed as excess government property, were acquired from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The college is eligible for this acquisition through its COSIP grant from N.S.F. Dr. Lenz made the necessary repairs and the equipment is now in working order. It will form the backbone of experimental studies in nuclear and atomic physics in the undergraduate laboratories.

According to Dr. Lenz, the multichannel analyzer is a "powerful electronic tool which can be used by students and researchers in many disciplines. For example, neutron and x-ray activition analysis studies can be used to determine the presence of trace amounts of heavy metals in various biological systems.

"Almost any experiment which produces information in the form of discrete electrical impulses of varying voltage can use this equipment to sort and count the number of events produced," he stated.

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Campus Notes

Dr. Jane C. Belcher, professor of biology who has taught at Sweet Briar since 1940, has been named the Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Ecology, an endowed professorship which was established last year by the alumna for whom it is named.

In announcing the appointment, President Whiteman paid tribute to Dr. Belcher's recent work in planning and directing Sweet Briar's expanding program of environmental studies, supported by the $203,900 College Science Improvement Program (COSIP) grant received two years ago from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Belcher is also heading a new project for environmental studies in cooperation with Lynchburg College and Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

An internationally-known British historian, Prof. Michael C. Hurst of Oxford University, is teaching at Sweet Briar as Sue Reid Slaughter Visiting Lecturer in history for the fall and winter terms. In 1971 he gave two lectures at the college while he was visiting professor at Bowdoin College, an appointment he has also held at Iowa and Tennessee universities.

In demand as a speaker, Mr. Hurst has lectured widely in the United States, Canada and Europe. He is the author of a number of books, articles and essays.

Four faculty members have been promoted in rank: Dr. Ralph Aiken, from associate professor to professor of English; Paul D. Cronin, from assistant to associate professor of physical education; Dr. John M. Lee, from instructor to assistant professor of music; and Dr. Edward Lee Piepho, from instructor to assistant professor of English.

Dr. Piepho recently received his Ph.D. degree at the University of Virginia, and Dr. Lee completed his doctorate at Florida State University.

Dr. Kenneth D. Grimm, assistant professor of government, received his Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee last summer.

Recent paintings by Loren Oliver, associate professor of art, and Raymond L. Twiddy, assistant professor, were on display in Babcock Fine Arts Center at the beginning of the fall term. Both artists have exhibited in one-man and group shows in museums and colleges, and both have won awards in art competitions.

Student Honors

Benedict Scholar: Dorothea Buck '73
Manson Scholar: Roberta Culbertson '73
Phi Beta Kappa, Class of 1973: Monica Cash, Patricia Cesak, Virginia Conley, Deborah Pollock, Ruth Rowan, Monica Saumweber, Freida Tucker, Marianne Vandervort.
McVea Scholars: Katherine Upchurch '72; Roberta Culbertson '73; Brenda Latchford '74; Susan West '75.
Dean's List: *seniors,* Lee Addison, Debra Bogdan, Dorothea Buck, Patricia Cesak, Noreen Conover, Donna Crouch, Roberta Culbertson, Christine Johnson, Kathryn Leake, Anita McVey, Monica Saumweber, Champe Smith, Freida Tucker, Lacy Williams; *juniors,* Victoria Bates, Carol Bebb, Jonita Carder, Blanche Chronowski, Christine Cummings, Karen Greer, Nancy Hardt, Sandra Herring, Alice Hodges, Brenda Latchford, Karin Lawson, Eugenia Manning, Catherine Matheson, Elaine Mills, Phyllis Ray, Claire Sandifer, Jana Sawicki, Cathy Weiss, Ruth Willingham, Mary Witt; *sophomores,* Kristina Allen, Joanna Arias, Elizabeth Brooks, Sarah Clement, Catherine Cranston, Penelope Czarra, Marcella Dianda, Elise Jeffress, Karin Lindgren, Pamela Myre, Deyanne Passarello, Jeannine Petersen, Rebecca Turcotte, Susan West.
Junior Honors: Victoria Bates, Carol Bebb, Laurie Epstein, Nancy Hardt, Sandra Herring, Alice Hodges, Margaret Jordan, Brenda Latchford, Catherine Matheson, Elaine Mills, Jana Sawicki, Gabrielle Urbanowicz, Cathy Weiss, Ruth Willingham, Mary Witt.
Tau Phi: *seniors,* Judy O'Keefe, Patricia Cesak, Debra Bogdan, Alison Baker, Jane McFaddin, Susan Dern, Gina Conley, Sandie Schwartz, Donna Crouch, Chris Mendel; *juniors,* Jonita Carder, Nancy Nields, Mary Witt, Sheila Connor, Margaret Jordan.

Opening Day: the Alfred Sharps and daughter Louise '76, with Heather MacLeod '75.

Photo by M. von Briesen

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